

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 3-7, 11, 13, 15-108, and 113-115 are cancelled. Claims 1-2, 8-10, 12, 14, 109-112, and 116-123 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the telephone interview held on September 24, 2007 during which the rejection set out below was discussed.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted with the present Amendment.

Claims 9-10, 12, 109-110, 117-119 and 121-122 have each been amended solely to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. None of these amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any of these claims, and no new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 8-10, 12, 14, 109-114, and 116-123 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnan (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,124) in view of Shinn (U.S. Patent No. 6,655,585). Claims 113-114 are cancelled. Applicants submit that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 1, 8, 111, 116, and 123 have each been amended in the manner discussed during the September 24, 2007 telephone interview. Applicants therefore submit that each of these claims is patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Claims 2, 5, 10, 12, 14 and 109 depend from claim 1, claim 9 and 110 depend from claim 8, claims 112 and 118-122 depend from claim 111, and claim 117 depends from claim 116. Therefore, each of these claims is distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as its parent claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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